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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-5, 28-30, 35 and 36 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-5, 28-30, 35 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moslehi (US 5,270,222). It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Moslehi does not teach or suggest each and every element of the subject claims.

In the Reply to Final Office Action dated September 24, 2003, applicants' representative proposed amendments to independent claims 1, 28, 35 and 36 to include a limitation recited in originally filed dependent claim 6. In the Advisory Action dated December 15, 2003, the Examiner states that the proposed amendments will not be entered because they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Applicants' representative respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner states the proposed amendments would require a new search since Erhardt *et al.*, cited by the Examiner, has been eliminated as a prior art reference. In particular, the Examiner admits that Erhardt, *et al.* is eliminated as a 35 U.S.C. §103(a) reference since Erhardt, *et al.* and the subject application have a common assignee. However, the Examiner previously performed a prior art search with regard to the proposed amendments since such limitations were recited in dependent claim 6 as originally filed. Thus, the proposed amendments do not raise new issues and such amendments should be entered. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 28, 35 and 36 (and claims 2-5 and 29-30 which depend therefrom) should be withdrawn.

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II. Conclusion

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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